

I oppose the proposed rule change 2(a) that seeks to bar non-ABA JD's who obtained LLM's from an ABA school.

I obtained my JD from a non-ABA Law School online Concord School of Law in California as I was unable to attend a full-time course of study required by most ABA schools due to work and family commitments. I am currently enrolled in the International Tax LLM program at St. Thomas University (ABA approved). After successful completion of this program by end of 2004, I intend to sit for the Michigan Bar Examination.

My wife is originally from Israel, having obtained her medical degree there, after passing the rigorous licensure testing, completed her hospital residency and now is working in a remote part of North-eastern Michigan (Jordan River).

One of the main reasons for moving our family to Michigan was the fact that this very rule would have allowed me to sit for their bar exam. While my wife is able to practice medicine, after proving her competence in a vocation where the very human life is at stake, I feel my only chance, the very chance that compelled me to move, to prove my competence and earn a livelihood as an aspiring attorney is possibly being shut down. Simply put, I seek only an opportunity to prove my competence!

After reading other people's comments, I am wondering what possible compelling reasons are driving the Board of Examiners to propose this rule change?

Could it be that the ABA, a self-anointed guardian of legal education is so afraid of competition from non-ABA graduates for bar admission, who, like myself, have gone the extra mile via the LLM route to sit for the bar will excel and outperform ABA graduates?

What possible harm could befall the State of Michigan by simply allowing non-ABA JD's who have ABA LLM's to sit for the bar?

On behalf of myself and other similarly situated bar candidates, who have long relied on the Michigan Court's rule and embarked on the LLM route, expended time, energy and resources in expectation of the opportunity to prove their competence, I humbly request the Michigan Supreme Court to preserve rule 2(a)

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